In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete paragraph [0165] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0165] Progeny were genotyped using PCR. Primers specific for the wild type allele were derived from exon 7 and intron 7 (forward, 5'TACATGTTGCCTGCTGCTGT-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 1)**; reverse, 5'-CTGCAGCACTCAACTCCAGA-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 2)**) and primers specific for the knockout allele were derived from the neomycin gene (forward, 5'-TGAATGAACTGCAGGACGAG-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 3)**; reverse, 5'-ATACTTTCTCGGCAGGAGCA-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 4)**). The mouse genotype was further verified by reverse transcription (RT) PCR using a forward primer from exon 5 (5'AGTGGAAAACATGGGCAGAG-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 5)**) coupled with a reverse primer from exon 8 (5'-ACGGCTGTTACCAAATGGAT-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 6)**). These primers amplify a 554 bp product from the wild-type allele and a 224 bp product from the knockout allele.

Please delete paragraph [0169] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0169] In order to make homozygous $Clcn3^{-/-}$ ES cells, one of the two targeted ES cell lines (heterozygous) was cultured in an elevated G418 concentration (1.6 mg/ml) for one week. We did not find a single clone with both alleles altered from more than 200 clones. A new targeting vector with a different selectable marker (hygromycin) was made. A PCR fragment containing the coding region of hygromycin and SV40 promoter was amplified from the plasmid pIND/Hygro (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, Calif.) using the following primers: Clc3Hygf: 5' GGG CCT CGA GGA ATG TGT GTC AGT TAG GGT GTG G 3' **(SEQ ID NO: 7)**, Clc3Hygr: 5' GGC CGA TTA ATT AAT GCA GCT GGC ACG ACA GG 3' **(SEQ ID NO: 8)**. A XhoI site was introduced to the forward primer and Pac I was introduced to the reverse primer (underlined). The Neo cassette was removed from pBYClc3 with XhoI and PacI digestion and the PCR fragment containing the Hyg cassette was inserted to form pBYClc6.